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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT North China Magistrates' Conference

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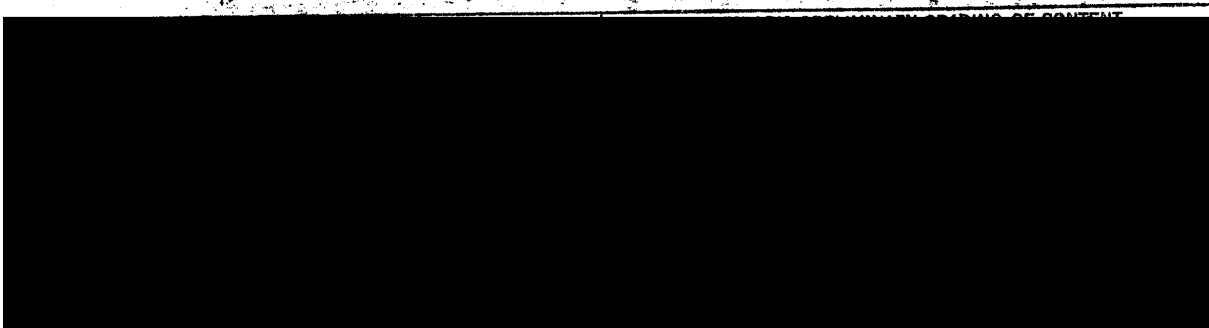
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1. A North China magistrates' conference of late September was addressed by LIU Lan-t'ao (劉瀾濤), the chief of the North China Affairs Department of the Chinese Communist Government; TUNG Pi-wu; HUANG Wen-p'ei; and CH'EN Shu-t'ung (陳叔通).
2. The speeches emphasized the encouragement of localities to exert themselves to support the Korean fighting, to suppress counterrevolutionary activities in their areas, to strengthen the People's Democratic United Front, to increase production, and to increase efforts to combat drought and floods. Special attention was devoted to local security and land reform in Suiyuan.
3. The following points of special interest could be derived from the speeches and reports at the conference:
  - a. Natural catastrophes in North China had been very serious, especially in Hopei and Pingyuan. The efforts of the central government to provide relief had had little effect.
  - b. Public security throughout North China was not very good. There were armed anti-Communist forces in Pingyuan, and organized anti-Communist armed forces operating in northern Shansi, Chahar, and Suiyuan.
  - c. Following the implementation of land reform, agricultural output declined. The decline was partly attributed to drought, but even where the output was good, the higher output sometimes worked to the advantage of local anti-government forces.
  - d. There was a general feeling of exhaustion in local areas as a result of excessive efforts to support the anti-America and aid to Korea campaign.
  - e. The United Front was actually controlled by the Chinese Communists throughout the provincial and hsien governments. Opposition parties were completely powerless.

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